

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please add a new claim 13, attached herein.

Claims 1-11 remain "as-is".

Please amend claim 12, as indicated.

1. (Original) An estimator program that performs method steps for estimating parameters of the optimum operating Server Metafarm designed to serve a particular large number of clients L comprising the steps of:

(a) inputting a group of parameters involving at least one Server Metafarm parameter and at least one single server parameter;

(b) selecting at least one Server Metafarm optimization parameter and its domain which indicates the values that the Server Farm optimization parameter may assume;

(c) selecting a Server Metafarm optimization criterion that is a function of said Server Metafarm optimization parameter or parameters;

(d) using an optimization technique to find the optimum value (values) of the optimization parameter (parameters).

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said step (a) of inputting said group of parameters includes the steps of:

(a1) selecting for input said particular number of clients "L" for utilizing said Server Metafarm;

(a2) selecting for input a maximum single server workload of users "P";

(a3) selecting for input a mean time to repair value (MTTR) for a single server;

(a4) selecting for input a mean time to failure (MTTF) for a single server.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) for selecting optimization parameters includes:

(b1) selecting a number of Server Farms that make up a Server Metafarm which is any natural integer number of servers wherein each Server Farm is the same size, in number of servers, as each other Server Farm.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) for selecting optimization parameters includes:

(b2) selecting a Redundancy Factor having a domain which is an interval between 0 and 100 percent.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein step (b) for selecting optimization parameters includes:

(b3) selecting a number of Server Farms of equal size that make up a Server Metafarm which number is any natural integer number of servers, and,

(b4) selecting a Redundancy Factor having a domain which is an interval between 0 and 100 percent.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) for selecting said optimization criteria includes:

(c1) selecting an optimization function which is the Server Metafarm Mean Time To Failure.

7. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) for selecting said optimization criteria includes:

(c2) selecting an optimization function which is the Server Metafarm Availability.

8. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) for selecting said optimization criteria includes:

(c3) selecting an optimization function which is the Redundancy Factor that should be minimized and, additionally, selecting a constraint in the form of the minimum required Server Metafarm Mean Time To Failure value.

9. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein step (c) for selecting said optimization criteria includes:

(c4) selecting an optimization function which is the Redundancy Factor that should be minimized and, additionally, selecting a constraint in the form of the minimum required Server Metafarm Availability value.

10. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein step (d) for using said optimization procedure includes the steps of:

(d1) selecting a value of said optimization parameters from said domain;

(d2) calculating a value for said optimization criterion;

(d3) making an evaluation decision about the end or the continuation of said optimization procedure.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein step (d3) involves the decision to stop the procedure if the optimum number of Server Farms in the configured Server Metafarm is determined.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10 wherein step (d3) includes the step of:

(d3a) continuing the optimization procedure if the optimum number for each single Server Farm size is not yet determined, by repeating said step [(d2)] (d1) with another value of said optimization parameter (parameters) from said domain (domains).

13. (New) An estimator program that performs method steps for estimating parameters of the optimum operating Server Metafarm designed to serve a particular large number of clients *L* comprising the steps of:

(a) inputting a group of parameters involving at least one Server Metafarm parameter and at least one single server parameter said inputting including the steps of:

(a1) selecting for input said particular number of clients "*L*" for utilizing said Server Metafarm;

(a2) selecting for input a maximum single server workload of users "*P*";

(a3) selecting for input a mean time to repair value (MTTR) for a single server;

(a4) selecting for input a mean time to failure (MTTF) for a single server;

(b) selecting at least one Server Metafarm optimization parameter and its domain which indicates the values that the Server Farm optimization parameter may assume, said selecting of said optimization parameter including the steps of:

(b1) selecting a number of Server Farms of equal size that make up a Server Metafarm which number is any natural integer number of servers, and,

(b2) selecting a Redundancy Factor having a domain which is an interval between 0 and 100 percent;

(b3) selecting a number of Server Farms that make up a Server Metafarm which is any natural integer number of servers wherein each Server Farm is the same size, in number of servers, as each other Server Farm;

(c) selecting a Server Metafarm optimization criterion that is a function of said Server Metafarm optimization parameter or parameters, said selecting including the steps of:

(c1) selecting an optimization function which is the Server Metafarm Mean Time To Failure;

(c2) selecting an optimization function which is the Server Metafarm Availability;

(c3) selecting an optimization function which is the Redundancy Factor that should be minimized and, additionally, selecting a constraint in the form of the minimum required Server Metafarm Mean Time To Failure value;

(c4) selecting an optimization function which is the particular Redundancy Factor that should be minimized and, additionally, selecting a constraint in the form of the minimum-required Server Metafarm Availability value;

(d) using an optimization technique to find the optimum value (values) of the optimization parameter (parameters), said using an optimization technique including the steps of:

(d1) selecting a value of said optimization parameters from said domain;

(d2) calculating a value for said optimization criterion;

(d3) making an evaluation decision about the end or about the continuation of said optimization procedure;

(d4) continuing the optimization procedure if the optimum number for each single Server Farm size is not yet determined, by repeating said step (d1) with another value of said optimization parameter (parameters) from said domain (domains).